

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated May 25, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 37-38, under 35 U.S.C. §101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter; rejected claims 37-38, under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite; and rejected claims 37-38, under U.S.C. §102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by Walker '772 (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,772).

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 37-38 to provide a better presentation of the claimed subject matter. No claims have been cancelled or added. As such, after entry of this Amendment, claims 37-38 are to be examined, both of which are independent.

Applicants submit that by virtue to the changes to claims 37-38, the indefiniteness rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the §112, ¶2 rejections of claims 37-38 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 37-38, under §101 and §102(e), and, therefore, respectfully traverses the same.

I. Non-Statutory Rejections of Claims 37-38.

As noted above, independent claim 37, as amended, is directed to a server for a compensation-granting portal site on the Internet having a first URL, and connecting to a plurality of other servers through the Internet through which a user accesses directly to a member store web page from a user terminal. As such, claim 1 now positively recites that the server for the compensation-granting portal site processes information stored in the user database, the member store database, the deal database, and the objected merchandise database according to executable instructions stored in a CPU, ROM, and/or RAM.

Applicants submit that, by virtue of the claim changes, claim 37 now recites statutory subject matter. Moreover, because claim 38 recites similar features, claim 38 also recites statutory subject matter. As such, the immediate withdrawal of the §101 rejections of claims 37-38 is respectfully requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections of Claims 37-38.

Applicants submit that, in contrast to the Examiner's assertions, claims 37-38 are patentable over Walker '772 because the reference clearly fails to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by the claims. In particular, Walker '772 teaches a system **100** that comprises a network **106** (e.g., Internet or interconnected computers), a central controller **110** controlling a data processing system, at least one POS controller **116**, **118**, and **120** each disposed in corresponding retailers, a telephone network **122**, a credit card or financial instrument processor **124** and at least one banking institution **126**, **128**, and **130**. (See, , Walker '772: col. 8, lines 29-37; FIG. 1).

In so doing, Walker '772 specifically discloses that, in order for system **100** to work and enable the execution of merchandise deals with users, each of the POS controllers **116**, **118**, and **120** have to be connected to credit card processor **124** and banking institution **126**, **128**, and **130**. In this manner, the member stores must register user information with the credit card companies and banks, before merchandise deals can be executed.

As such, Walker '772 fails to teach or suggest that a server for a compensation-granting portal site that connects to a plurality of other servers through the Internet through which a user *accesses directly to a member store web page* from a user terminal, as required by claim 37.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Walker '772 does not describe each and every feature claim 37 and cannot, therefore, anticipate claim 37, or for that matter, render claim 37 unpatentable. And because claim 38 recites similar features as claim 37, which have been shown to be patentable, claim 38 is also patentable. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 37-38 is respectfully requested.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner

feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **033975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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